

□ 1547

Messrs. SHIMKUS, RILEY, EHLERS, and TAYLOR of Mississippi changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

So the motion to instruct was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a joint resolution of the House of the following title:

H.J. Res. 122. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2001, and for other purposes.

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LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to inquire of the majority the schedule for today and the remainder of the week.

Mr. Speaker, I inquire of the majority, whomever may want to respond, about the schedule. Members are confused with respect to when we will finish today, if we will finish today, if we will meet on Friday and Thursday, or on the weekend.

We would like to know on our side of the aisle, and I imagine Members on their side of the aisle would like to know, as well. If there is someone over there who could apprise us where we are in terms of the schedule, we would appreciate it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) if he could help us with the schedule for today and the remainder of the week.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that we are here tonight, that we have a functional CR for tomorrow and that that will be good until Thursday. So clearly, we will be here tonight, we will work all day Thursday, and we may very well be here on Friday.

My understanding is that the House will convene at 6 p.m. tomorrow, and we will continue to work.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, can the gentleman tell me whether he anticipates the Committee on Appropriations meeting on the Labor, HHS bill and if there will be any other conferences meeting?

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I will tell the gentleman that the answer to that question probably lies more on his side of the aisle than ours.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, our people are ready. They are right here.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, we are ready.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman tell us the room number and we will be there. In fact, we will even bring the coffee, the pizza, the pop, whatever they want.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I will tell the gentleman, as we move forward tonight, I will try to get that room number for him and we will continue to work the rest of the evening. We will be here tomorrow convening at 6 p.m., and we will work through Thursday evening and possibly into Friday morning.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for his comments. May I ask him one other question.

The gentleman said possibly into Thursday or Friday or Saturday. That is not clear yet, I anticipate, whether we are going to work the weekend. Is that correct?

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I say to the gentleman, all things are possible if we only believe. That will be determined, I assume, as we continue our work schedule. As the gentleman knows, we have been functioning with 1-day CR's, and it has been difficult to predict beyond the 1 day.

I have provided information which I believe the leadership would back up all the way through tomorrow to midnight or perhaps slightly beyond. That is stretching the 1-day CR to more than 1 day. And then we will make decisions after that.

One day at a time I believe was the request that the President had made, and we have been following that.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY).

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) could answer this question: Could he tell us what legislation is expected to be on the floor yet today and what legislation is expected to be on the floor tomorrow?

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I will tell the gentleman that I do appreciate the attention I am receiving and that I could run off a list of legislation for him if that would make him feel more comfortable; but, frankly, it would not be worth squat right now.

We believe that WRDA will be up. That is something that was sent over to us by the Senate. And we believe, if we could move forward on that piece of legislation as we have done on a daily basis that that would be a continuing and significant step forward.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) will continue to yield, does the gentleman expect WRDA to be up today or tomorrow after 6.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, our belief is it will be up at the latest tomorrow after 6.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, since my understanding is that the House is not going into session until 6 o'clock tomorrow, how can it be up before 6 o'clock?

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I said at the latest 6 o'clock. That means 6 o'clock may very well be the time at which it comes up or later.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, does the gentleman mean the earliest?

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman prefers "earliest," I will say "earliest."

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, no, that is what I thought the dictionary said.

If I could say to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR), it is obvious to me that there is no game plan which the majority wishes to disclose to the minority at this time.

Good luck and Godspeed. May they find one before the day is over.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BONIOR. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I would ask the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) that, if we do not reach any agreement, will some method be arranged so that we will have the opportunity to go home to vote on Tuesday?

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I will tell the gentleman, that functions under a 24-hour continuing resolution and the answer to the question of the gentleman will probably work its way to the surface sometime over the next 24 hours.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, but it is his present thinking and that of, for lack of a better word, the leadership that we could be working here until the election?

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, well, I understand we are here on the 24-hour continuing resolution at the request of the President; and if there is any other suggested work schedule, maybe he can telephone us from California or send us an e-mail from California to let us know we could be doing something else.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, the President is trying desperately hard not to close down the Government and this is why he is signing these resolutions.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I will tell the gentleman, if he is searching for the Government in Kentucky and in California, he could find quite a bit of it right here in Washington, D.C.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, well, since he is the President of all of these United States and the leader of the free world, I think that we should give him some flexibility.

But I want to thank the gentleman for his concise answers.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I will tell the gentleman that the problem with the flexibility is that the taxpayers are funding the need to pass the CR and take it to wherever he happens to be. It would certainly be a more convenient procedure if he were at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue so we could operate on a daily basis.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I cannot begin to tell my colleague how thankful we are for how helpful he has been to us this evening.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, we are here to serve.